(c) whether such plans at Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh) have also given good results; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to propogate such ventures to other needy areas throughout the country so that the villagers could reap the benefits of water harvesting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of second water convention held in the Capital depicting attainment of water harvesitng plan in the desert State of Rajasthan. However, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has implemented a scheme on "Studies of Recharge of Ground Water" on pilot basis during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, 18 projects have been approved in Jaipur, Udaipur, Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan. The demonstration of these schemes have proved that the water harvesting schemes are beneficial even in low rainfall regions.

(c) No project has been approved for the district of Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh under the above pilot scheme.

(d) Public need to be made aware, motivated and involved for successful implementation of water harvesting programmes. With a view to popularise the water harvesting, the CGWB has approved 174 schemes in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan under the above mentioned pilot scheme which has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an allocation of Rs. 200.00 crore.

Conference of National Water Resources Council

3789. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council held a Conference presided by the Prime Minister in the first week of April, 2002;

(b) if so, the main features of the conference;

(c) whether any consensus has been arrived at the conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The fifth meeting of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC), was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on Ist April, 2002 to consider the draft revised National Water Policy. In light of the views expressed and suggestions made by the members of the Council, certain modifications were incorporated in the draft policy with consensus. The Revised National Water Policy was adopted and a Resolution to this effect was unanimously passed by the Council. The Policy, *inter-alia* envisages that each State should formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner within a period of two years and implement the same in order to achieve the desired objectives as laid down in the policy.

Ground water level in A.P.

3790. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe water crisis in Godavari and Telangana regions of Andhra Pradesh on account of scanty rainfall; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to save the people from acute water shortage in view of rapid depletion of ground water in the affected districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, measures/initiatives to tackle water shortage are to be taken by the concerned State Government. As per information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana region and Godavari districts of the State received deficit rainfall during the year 2001-2002. Deficit rainfall creates deficiency in ground water.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched "Neeru-Meeru" programme on a large scale to improve facilities of artificial recharge, which will reduce the adverse affect of deficit rainfall.